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PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION MEMORANDUM



NEW ROAD AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS LINE IN THE DONG HOI AREA NORTH VIETNAM

NPIC/R-57/68

MARCH 1968

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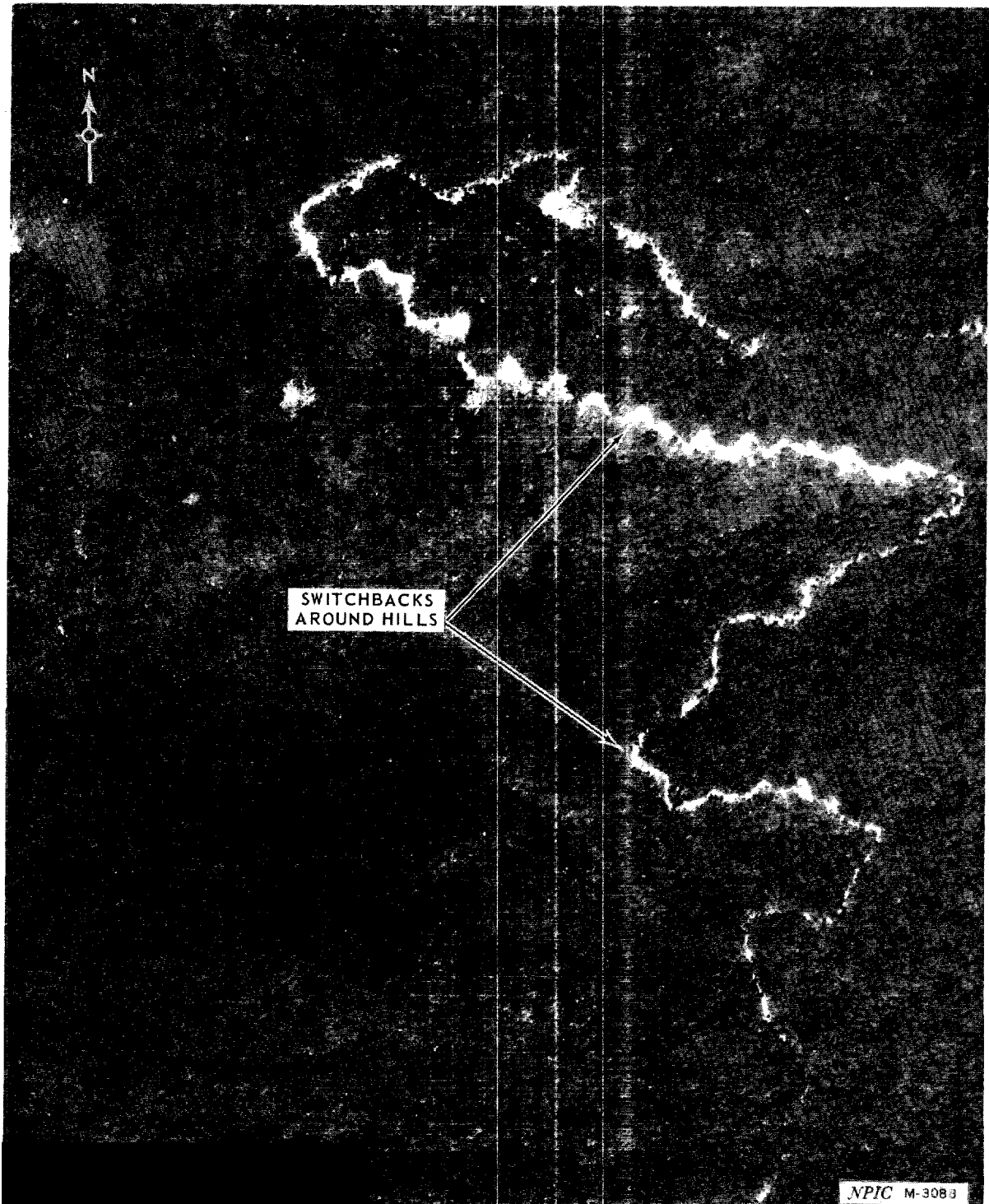
NEW ROAD AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS LINE IN THE DONG HOI AREA, NORTH VIETNAM

Analysis of recent aerial photography reveals rapid North Vietnamese construction of a new major logistics route and a telecommunications line, both extending southwest from the Dong Hoi area of North Vietnam toward the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). The new road, constructed through some of the most difficult mountainous terrain in North Vietnam, could eventually provide (as shown by the comparable Route 137/912) a new all-weather, major logistics route from North Vietnam to roads now serving communist forces threatening the U.S. Marine Base at Khe Sanh in South Vietnam. The general alignment of the telecommunications trace indicates that it will connect to the recently reported (NPIC/R-46/68) Laos/South Vietnam Line 1 in the Sepone area of Laos.

25X1D The new 16-nm road segment under construction extends from the existing North Vietnamese road network, west of Lake Loc Xa, at 17-11N 106-38E, proceeds generally south-southwest (Figure 1) to the present construction terminus at 17-02N 106-33E, two nm from the North Vietnam/Laos border and 8.5 nm north of the northwest tip of South Vietnam. Approximately 13 nm of the road are presently serviceable. Most of the road was constructed between [REDACTED] and evidences the use of mechanized construction equipment. Truck parks and suspect construction camps constitute support facilities along the route.

The newly observed, open-wire, telecommunications trace under construction generally parallels and enhances the value of the new road. A visible three-nm gap separates the northern end of this trace from the previously existing North Vietnam Branch Line 4A (see map, page 3). The new trace extends intermittently south-southwest and crosses the North Vietnam/Laos border approximately two nm north of the DMZ at 16-56N 106-33E. From this point, it is designated as part of La/VS Line 1 and extends generally south to the Se Bang Hiang (river) (Figure 2); it then crosses and generally parallels the river until reaching the previously reported (NPIC/R-46/68) terminus of La/VS Line 1 at 16-49N 106-19E. This line, when complete, will provide open-wire telecommunications service from the North Vietnamese telecommunications network to the Khe Sanh area and the A Shau Valley of South Vietnam.

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FIGURE 1. ROAD CONSTRUCTION, 23 NM SOUTH OF DONG HOI, NORTH VIETNAM

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NVN BRANCH LINE 4A

TRUNG PHAN VIET NAM

ROUTE 101

ROUTE 1A

NVN LINE 4

ROUTE 103

ROUTE 102

--NVN LINE 3

DEMILITARIZED ZONE

SOUTH VIETNAM

ROUTE 92 EXTENDED

ROUTE 9

KHE SANH

AMS SERIES JUG (A) 1501

SHEL IS AN 1111ST EDITION

NF 48-16 3RD EDITION

AMS SERIES 10G (G) 1501

0-5 341 N. 48-128.

UNNUMBERED ROAD

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NPIC M-3090

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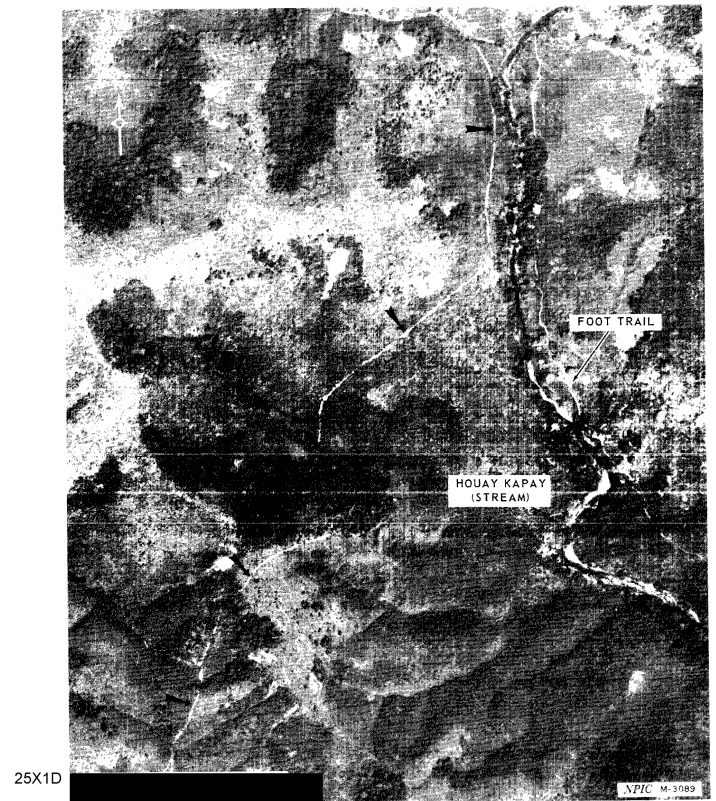


FIGURE 2. TELECOMMUNICATIONS LINE UNDER CONSTRUCTION, LAOS/NORTH VIETNAM BORDER

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